

JAMES E. CHAPPELL.

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APRIL 20, 1904.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House and ordered to be printed.

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Mr. MIERS, from the Committee on Invalid Pensions, submitted the following

REPORT.

[To accompany H. R. 3107.]

The Committee on Invalid Pensions, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 3107) granting an increase of pension to James E. Chappell, submit the following report:

This bill proposes to increase the pension of the officer named therein from \$17 to \$40 per month.

The officer, now 70 years of age, served as sergeant, second lieutenant, first lieutenant, and captain of Company G, Fifty-eighth Indiana Infantry, from August 22, 1861, to July 25, 1865, when honorably discharged, and is now pensioned under the general law at \$17 per month on account of disease of eyes contracted by him while holding the rank of first lieutenant.

Claims for increase of pension were rejected, the last one in January, 1902, upon the ground that the disability of accepted service origin did not warrant a higher rating.

When last examined, in July, 1901, the board of surgeons stated that his vision, after correction, was in the right eye fifteen-fortieths and in the left fifteen-thirtieths, and further stated that the eye trouble was a mild catarrhal conjunctivitis, with some atrophy of the conjunctivæ in each eye and marginal opacities in each lens, with hypermetropia and astigmatism.

On April 11, 1899, the board of surgeons at Evansville, Ind., stated, after describing his eye trouble, that "This man's physical condition is such that he can not labor."

The petition of the beneficiary filed with your committee sets forth that, aside from his eye trouble, he is a sufferer from rheumatism, disease of heart and kidneys; that in April, 1898, he had a stroke of apoplexy, from which he had not fully recovered; that in consequence of his ailments he was unable to perform manual or clerical labor; that he is unable to earn a support, and has no property and no means of support aside from the pension.

Medical testimony also filed shows that his sight is now very bad, he being almost totally blind in one eye; that he suffers from rheumatism and Bright's disease, with heart disturbances; that he is a confirmed invalid, owing to his age and diseases, etc.

The officer rendered nearly four years of faithful service and is now pensioned for disease of eyes of accepted service origin.

The board of surgeons who last examined him stated that by reason of this disease the soldier was disabled for manual labor.

Aside from the eye trouble the officer is suffering from other disabilities of a serious character, and is in destitute circumstances.

Following the recommendation of the board of surgeons of April, 1899, your committee are of the opinion that an increase of his pension to \$30 per month is fully warranted, and therefore report the bill back with the recommendation that it pass when amended as follows:

In line 6 strike out the word "captain" and insert in lieu thereof the words "first lieutenant."

In line 8 strike out the word "forty" and insert in lieu thereof the word "thirty."

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